

Immunity

The Journal will express no opinion of and assume no responsibility for the views of "Immunity" correspondents. They must win or lose on their own merits by abounding in their own wisdom, and each reader must appraise each communication for what it is worth and take it for better or worse.

Communications will not be signed when published, but the author must be known to the editor. Send on your complaints, your kicks, your knocks, your boosts. We want constructive and destructive criticism. Air your pet hobbies. You are not limited to your own town or the medical profession.

To the Editor:

Does your advertisement on the front page of the Journal which speaks of trusses and ruptures have any symbolic significance of an imminent rupture within the body of the State Society. If so, who will supply a truss? Why not cut it out?
COLUSA.

To the Editor:

When it comes to the League for the Consternation of Public Health and the State Society, which is the tail and which is the dog? Which one has the wag?

I enquire to know. Hoping you are the same, I am yours from

MISSOURI.

Book Reviews

Symptoms of Visceral Disease. By F. M. Pottinger. 328 pp. Illustrated. St. Louis: Mosby. 1919. Price, \$4.00.

This is an applied physiology of the vegetative nervous system, an explanation of symptoms in terms of autonomic nerve physiology. While there is a considerable fund of information contained therein, it is doubtful if the message which the author brings warrants 328 pages. By far the greater part of the book consists of matter equally accessible in Luciani, Starling, or other freely quoted physiologists. None the less, as a compilation of the opinions of the acknowledged leaders in modern physiological research, it is a good source of reference and the clinical deductions of the author are of interest, even though one may not always agree.
E. W. T.

The Higher Aspect of Nursing. By Gertrude Harding. 12mo of 310 pages. Philadelphia and London: W. B. Saunders Company, 1919. Cloth, \$2.00 net.

This book deals in an interesting and unique manner with faults of character and bad habits which the exigencies of nursing are likely to intensify and even to create. It discusses the temptations and conditions that lead to their development and the evil consequences that are likely to result if they are not curbed. Also, it gives very definite advice regarding the means of overcoming such faults and it points out the necessity for nurses to keep the higher ideals of nursing in mind if they wish to retain a permanent interest in their work. Instructors of nursing will do well to advise their pupils to let this book form part of the reading required with their study of ethics.

Training School Methods for Institutional Nurses.

By Charlotte A. Aikens, formerly director of Sibley Memorial Hospital, Washington, D. C.; formerly superintendent of Iowa Methodist Hospital, Des Moines, and of Columbia Hospital, Pittsburgh; author of "Hospital Management," "Studies in Ethics for Nurses," etc. 12mo of 337 pages. Philadelphia and London:

W. B. Saunders Company, 1919. Cloth, \$2.25 net.

This book, as the author states in the preface, is intended to aid head nurses and other executives in schools of nursing to solve their problems and to form a basis for such instruction of senior pupils as will fit them for accepting responsible institutional positions. Particularly valuable chapters are those dealing with: methods of teaching; means of conserving hospital supplies; systems of training; and the responsibilities of the head nurse to probationers and juniors.

The Operations of Obstetrics. By Frederick Elmer Leavitt, M. D. 466 pages, 248 illustrations. St. Louis: C. V. Mosby Co. 1919.

The author attempts to "present the subject of obstetrics from the operator's point of view." He goes very superficially into the indications for these various procedures and contents himself in most instances by simply setting forth the steps in the operation. The obsolete procedures are described as fully and carefully as the universally accepted ones, and it would be very difficult for the general practitioner or the medical student to discriminate between the good and the bad. Nothing new has been added, in fact some of the newer methods have been omitted. Under anesthesia, for example, no mention is made of nitrous oxide and oxygen, while twilight sleep is mentioned rather favorably.

The illustrations are in great part taken directly from other works, due credit being given these originals, or redrawn by the author's own artist.

On the whole, the book is no better than the usual textbooks and will scarcely find favor with teachers or students of obstetrics.
H. A. S.

Laboratory Manual for Elementary Zoology. By L. H. Hyman. 148 pp. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. 1919. Price \$1.50.

This laboratory manual was prepared for classes in elementary zoology at the University of Chicago. It is practical and answers the purpose for which it is intended.
L. E.

Proteomorphic Therapy and New Medicine. An Introduction to Proteal Therapy. By Dr. Henry Smith Williams. 304 pp. New York: The Goodhue Company. 1918.

This book deals with a series of theories and fine drawn hypotheses in support of the contention that certain foreign proteins of vegetable nature have power to ameliorate, or cure cancer, rheumatoid conditions, asthma and psoriasis, tuberculosis and other diseases. The work done in certain phases has the stamp of scientific accuracy. In other places it is of a most loose and unconvincing type. It would take a great deal of time to analyze and disprove many of the absurdities in this book. So, at the risk of doing an injustice to some of its real worth, it must be classified as a poorly digested serological potpourri. It is to be recommended to those who have time to waste on such tangent reactions in science as a source of amusement only.
S. P.

Military Surgery of the Ear, Nose and Throat. Medical War Manual No. 8. By Hanau W. Loeb. 176 pp. Philadelphia and New York: Lea & Febiger. 1918.

This little vest pocket manual was authorized by the Secretary of War and is an attempt to bring together in a critical way all the literature on ear, nose and throat work which came out during the war. Naturally, one turns with greatest interest to those things which were incident to the war itself, and the chapters on labyrinth concussion and on reconstruction and re-education are well worth special attention. The gunshot injuries of the ear and the accessory sinuses have brought out